AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Kindly amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-95 (cancelled)

96. (currently amended) A safety trocar assembly having:

- a longitudinal central axis;

- a portal unit with elongated, tubular cannula having an open distal end;

- a trocar unit having an elongated obturator adapted to be removably inserted through said cannula, having a handle on a proximal end, and a penetrating end on a distal end, said penetrating end exposed through said open distal end of said cannula and having a cutting means for making an orifice in body cavity wall, a penetrating apex, and a sloping side wall that are immovable relative to said obturator;

- a protector means situated on said obturator and having a penetrating apex shield adapted to actuate between a retracted position in which said penetrating apex is open and an extended position in which said penetrating apex is closed by said penetrating apex shield and in the projection onto the plane normal to said longitudinal axis said sloping side wall surrounds said penetrating apex shield;

- said penetrating apex shield surrounds said penetrating apex and has distal edge forming ~~a fence~~ means for precluding the introduction, jamming, and engagement of tissue fibers of body cavity wall between said penetrating apex shield and said penetrating apex~~, as well as between said penetrating apex shield segments~~;

- bias means for biasing said penetrating apex shield toward said extended position and for permitting said penetrating apex shield move to said retracted position in response to a proximally directed force applied to said penetrating apex shield distal edge; said bias means returning said penetrating apex shield to said extended position when the force applied to said penetrating apex shield distal edge is removed, that occurs when said penetrating apex and said

penetrating apex shield distal edge have entered a patient's body cavity, however, before said penetrating end has been fully inserted into body cavity.

97. (previously presented) Device according to Claim 96, wherein said bias means is made as a spring mounted between said penetrating apex shield and parts of said obturator.

98. (previously presented) Device according to Claim 97, wherein said spring is situated in said obturator distal part.

99. (previously presented) Device according to Claim 96, wherein said penetrating apex shield is tubular.

100. (withdrawn)

101. (previously presented) Device according to Claim 96, wherein said cutting means comprises a penetrating apex cutting means protected by said penetrating apex shield.

Claims 102 - 131 (withdrawn)